

# Yohanes Getnet attends UVA Engineering Day

New to AHS, sophomore Yohanes Getnet has expressed his love and passion for engineering. Originally from Northern Ethiopia. In this part of Africa, Yohanes had developed an interest in 11th century engineering and architecture present in his home city. Yohanes was selected to attend Engineering Day at the University of Virginia where he learned about new engineering processes and competed in contests as well.

**Q: Describe your interest in engineering.**

A: Ever since I was little, I wanted to know how things were made. I was born and raised in a small town called Lasta, Lalibela in northern Ethiopia. In this part of Africa, most engineering work was done in the 11th century. Lalibela has eleven distinctive rock-hewn churches called African Second Jerusalem. During the Sabbath, I would go to each subterranean monolithic church to try and understand the architecture and engineering behind the rock-hewn churches carved by Ethiopian Saint king Lalibela. I came to the U.S. two years ago, where I can't help but admire the works of engineering all around me. Whether they be physical, like bridges and railroad tracks, or software, like GPS technology, America is so advanced. I'd like to bring the engineering knowledge I learn here to Africa in the future.

**Q: Explain the process of getting selected to go visit UVA for their engineering day.**

A: First of all I would like to thank all the FCPS, SOL teachers who helped me using great teaching strategies. Secondly I would like to thank the best W4 teacher, Ms. Robin Highberg, who explained the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) high school visitation program to me. I found out about the program two days before we left. Many students received the papers to apply, but I was the only one who applied and was accepted. All my SOL teachers were proud that I went and represented AHS as a winner.

**Q: What was the Engineering Day at UVA like? What are some things that you learned?**

A: I loved the Engineering Day! There were lots of career talks, where engineers such as Professor Catherine Hunt spoke and gave us useful career advice. There were many different engineering students who explained all the different fields in engineering, like Aerospace, Mechanical, Computer Science, Electrical, Computer, Systems, Civil, Architect, and Biomedical. This really helped me decide which I was most interested in pursuing.

**Q: What was your favorite part of participating in the Engineering Events?**

A: I personally loved seeing the robots. I had so many questions about how they worked, like their vision systems, how they flew, how they avoided obstacles, their facial recognition software, etc. The Grounds tour, which is UVA's campus, was beautiful. There was a lot of nature in the city. I found the University so wonderful, and I would love to see myself there in a few years. I especially loved the Rotunda building, which was behind the Thomas Jefferson statue. It was special because he designed it himself.

There was a project we did with the 30 high school students to make a sample of a Piezo Buzzer circuit. I was on a team with two other high school students, and we won for the fastest time! We got a special shirt as a prize. I am happy that I was one of the members because I make out Annandale high school is best.

**Q: What future do you hope to have with engineering and University?**

A: I hope to one day be an engineer that builds remarkable, unusual and unbelievable buildings, houses, and churches. I would also make them the safest environments in the world. In two years I'll be

enrolled in University, and my dream school based on my experiences so far is the University of Virginia. I think the engineering department there is strong, and UVA has a lot of extracurricular activities for me to join.

For more about the UVA Engineering Day program click [here](#).